

Carmel, NY – Congressman John Hall (NY-19), Congressman Eliot Engel (NY-17) and Congresswoman Nita Lowey (NY-18) announced today that Westchester County Forensic Science Laboratory has received a Department of Justice grant in the amount of \$111,858 to fund forensic science and medical examiner services.

The funding is provided through the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program which allows states and local governments to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services.

“The Westchester Forensic Science Laboratory is one of the best in the country,” said Rep. Hall. “Forensic science is a critical tool in law enforcement that helps to put criminals behind bars and keep our communities safe. This funding ensures the county is able to improve its medical examiner services and better service the justice system by eliminating the backlog of examinations and research. ”

Congressman Eliot Engel said, “This grant money helps critical parts of the criminal justice system – the use of forensic science and the medical examiner’s office – by improving their capabilities and speed of response to abet investigators. By helping to eliminate backlogs in analyses of controlled substances, firearms examination, forensic pathology, latent prints, questioned documents, toxicology, and trace evidence, Westchester residents will be safer and the criminals out in greater peril.”

“Advances in forensic science have revolutionized the investigative capabilities of local law enforcement authorities and medical examiners,” said Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-Westchester/Rockland). “I am pleased Westchester County will receive federal support to continue making strides in the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services.”

"This grant will provide us with the equipment necessary to help us solve a lot of crimes and protect our citizens in Westchester County. We thank Congressman Hall, Congressman Engel and Congresswoman Lowey for their support and for helping us secure this funding," said Robert Adamo, the Director of Forensic Sciences for Westchester County.

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (the Coverdell program) awards grants to states and local governments to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog.